

Message Text

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TAGS: EAIR, LE

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - US-LEBANON CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 211721

1. US AND LEBANON DELEGATIONS MET IN WASHINGTON, SEPT 6-9 FOR FRANK, IF AT TIME EXASPERATING, DISCUSSIONS CENTERING ON TMA'S FUTURE OPERATIONS IN THE US. EARLY IN DISCUSSION, LEBANESE WERE PERSUADED THAT MEA WOULD NOT REQUIRE USG ASSURANCES THAT PAN AMERICAN'S OPERATIONS WOULD NOT UNDULY IMPACT ON MEA'S LONDON SERVICES. LEBANESE DEL ACCEPTED FACT THAT PAN AM HAD NO IMMEDIATE PLANS TO RESUME OPERATIONS AT BEIRUT, THAT LONDON-BEIRUT SEGMENT WAS EFFECTIVELY PRE-CLUDED FOR PAN AM BY US-UK BILATERAL AND THAT FOR TIME BEING AT LEAST IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO CONSIDER EITHER PAN AM OR MEA'S ROUTE RIGHTS BETWEEN US AND LEBANON. THIS MATTER WAS LEFT FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION.

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2. LEBANESE DEL DISPUTED US POSITION THAT TMA EASTBOUND TRANSPACIFIC ROUTE WAS ANOMOLOUS IN THE CONTEXT OF US-

LEBANON AIR TRANSPORTATION AND HAD NO JUSTIFICATION IN EITHER AVIATION OR ECONOMIC TERMS. TERMINATION OF TRANSPACIFIC ROUTE WAS CONCEDED BY THE LEBANESE DELEGATION EARLY

IN THE NEGOTIATION AND TMA CHAIRMAN ABU HAIDAR'S REQUEST FOR A TWO-MONTH GRACE PERIOD TO PERMIT ADJUSTMENTS IN JAPAN, WAS REJECTED.

3. CONSIDERATION OF TMA'S TRANSATLANTIC OPERATION WAS A DIFFERENT MATTER. IN MINUTE DISCUSSION OF US POSITION ON TROUBLESOME TMA TRANSATLANTIC ACTIVITIES IN THIRD COUNTRIES (REFTEL), LEBANESE DEL COUNTERED BY PLEADING THAT PROPOSED CAB PERMIT PROVIDING THREE WEEKLY NARROW-BODIED FLIGHTS WOULD UNDERCUT VIABILITY OF LEBANESE ALL-CARGO AIRLINE. ALTHOUGH NOT PERSUADED BY LEBANESE ARGUMENT THAT ADDITIONAL FREQUENCIES WOULD BE JUSTIFIED ON ECONOMIC GROUNDS, USDEL FINALLY AGREED TO SUPPORT GRANTING OF FOUR WEEKLY NARROW-BODIED FREQUENCIES TO TMA BASED ON TRADITIONAL US-LEBANESE FRIENDSHIP, I.E., FOREIGN POLICY GROUNDS (WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT US AIRLINES, WHEN AND IF THEY SHOULD FILE SCHEDULES FOR BEIRUT SERVICE, WOULD RECEIVE RECIPROCAL TREATMENT).

4. LEBANESE DEL REQUESTED THAT USG CONSIDER AUTHORIZING TMA TO OPERATE ALL-CARGO SERVICE WITH NO TRAFFIC RIGHTS THROUGH CANADA. USDEL HELD THAT THIS MATTER WAS OUTSIDE SCOPE OF NEGOTIATIONS AND SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO CAB FOR CONSIDERATION.

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5. IT WAS AGREED THAT UNDERSTANDINGS IN MEMO OF CONSULTATION (BELOW) WOULD BE SUBJECT OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS VIA EXCHANGE OF NOTES. BY SEPTTEL, DEPT WILL PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH TEXT OF NOTE TO BE SUBMITTED PROMPTLY TO MFA. PROMPT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF US NOTE WILL FINALIZE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT AND PERMIT DEPT TO REQUEST PRESIDENT TO AMEND CAB PERMIT TO AUTHORIZE FOUR WEEKLY FLIGHTS. FYI: IF GOL SHOULD FOR ANY REASON FIND UNACCEPTABLE AD REFERENDUM AGREEMENT OR UNDULY DELAY RESPONSE, DEPT WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO REMOVE HOLD ON PENDING CAB PERMIT AND RECOMMEND APPROVAL BY PRESIDENT.

6. MEMORANDUM OF CONSULTATIONS.

BEGIN TEXT:

1. DELEGATIONS REPRESENTING THE GOVERNMENTS OF LEBANON AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA MET IN WASHINGTON FROM SEPTEMBER 6 TO SEPTEMBER 9, 1977 TO RESUME EARLIER CONSULTATIONS HELD IN WASHINGTON IN MARCH 1977, TO DISCUSS VARIOUS CIVIL AVIATION MATTERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT OF SEPTEMBER 1, 1972. DELEGATION LISTS

ARE CONTAINED IN ATTACHMENTS A AND B.

2. THE TWO DELEGATIONS REACHED AD REFERENDUM AGREEMENT ON THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. THAT FOR THE TIME BEING THEY WERE NOT IN A POSITION TO DISCUSS THE LONG-TERM REQUIREMENTS OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS.

B. THE US DELEGATION DID NOT BELIEVE THAT NEW INFORMATION HAD BEEN PRESENTED WHICH WARRANTED A DEPARTURE FROM THE CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD'S RECOMMENDED DECISION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, TO AUTHORIZE THREE FREQUENCIES. HOWEVER, IT DID FEEL THAT BASED ON THE TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, AND IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTEREST OF REAFFIRMING THAT FRIENDSHIP, THAT IT WOULD SUPPORT THE LEBANESE DELEGATION'S REPRESENTATIONS THAT A MINIMUM OF FOUR WEEKLY FREQUENCIES WERE REQUIRED BY ITS AIRLINE, TMA, IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN ALL-CARGO SERVICE ON AN ECONOMICAL BASIS BETWEEN NEW YORK AND BEIRUT, USING NARROW-BODIED EQUIPMENT.

C. THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON WOULD WELCOME, ON THE BASIS OF COMITY AND RECIPROCITY, THE RESUMPTION OF PAN AMERICAN'S SERVICE TO BEIRUT.

D. THAT IF THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON DESIRES TO DISCUSS THE INTRODUCTION OF SERVICE BY MEA DURING THE SHORT-TERM, CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WOULD BE HELD.

E. THAT SINCE THE ROUTE RIGHTS SPECIFIED IN THE ROUTE SCHEDULE ATTACHED TO THE AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT HAD EXPIRED, AND THAT SINCE CIRCUMSTANCES HAD CHANGED SO GREATLY, THE MEMORANDUM OF CONSULTATION OF JUNE 13, 1972 WAS NO LONGER IN EFFECT.

3. THE TWO DELEGATIONS AGREED THAT THIS MEMORANDUM OF CONSULTATION SHOULD BE CONFIRMED BY AN EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATIC NOTES.

ZOUHAIR BEYDOUN, CHAIRMAN, LEBANESE DELEGATION.
ROBERT A. BROWN, CHAIRMAN, UNITED STATES DELEGATION.
WASHINGTON, D. C., SEPTEMBER 9, 1977.

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